

Appln. No. 10/713,694  
Amendment dated July 7, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed April 7, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A Flare Up Resistant Front Loading Roasting System~~ flare-up resistant front loading roasting system comprising:

a roasting enclosure having a back and a pair of sides, said roasting enclosure having a door for facilitating access to an interior portion of said roasting enclosure, said roasting enclosure having a pair of apertures, each one of said apertures extending through an associated one of said sides;

a rotating ~~means~~ assembly operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure;

a shaft member removeably engageable by said rotating ~~means~~ assembly such that said rotating assembly is capable of rotating said shaft member, said shaft member having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end being engageable with said rotating ~~means~~ assembly, said shaft member being positionable substantially within said roasting enclosure, said proximal end extending outwardly through a first one of said apertures, said distal end extending outwardly from a second one of said pair of apertures; and

a ~~heating means~~ heat source positioned within said roasting enclosure; wherein said rotating assembly includes:

a driven pulley mounted on said shaft member;

a first arm having a first end and a second end, said first end being pivotally mounted on said roasting enclosure;

a motor mounted on said first arm toward said second end of said first arm to permit pivoting of said motor with respect to said roasting enclosure;

a driver pulley mounted on a shaft of said motor;

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a second arm having a first segment and a second segment pivotally mounted together, said first segment being rotatably mounted on said roasting enclosure, said second segment being mounted to said first arm such that said first and second segments pivot with respect to each other when said first arm pivots on said roasting enclosure;

wherein said driver pulley is movable toward and away from said driven pulley when said first arm is pivoted.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said roasting enclosure further comprises:

an interior wall and an exterior wall, said interior wall having a spaced parallel relationship with said exterior wall, said interior wall being operationally coupled to said exterior wall, said interior and exterior walls defining a wall interior space;

an insulating material positioned within and substantially filling said wall interior space, said insulating material inhibiting radiated heat transfer between an interior of said roasting enclosure and an external surface of said exterior wall.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said roasting enclosure further comprises:

a bottom wall providing a base for said roasting enclosure, said bottom wall having a back edge, a front edge, and a pair of side edges;

a back wall operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to said back edge of said bottom wall;

a front wall operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to said front edge of said bottom wall, said front wall having a height less than a height of said back wall;

a pair of side walls, each one of said pair of side walls being operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to an associated one of said side edges of said bottom wall, each one of said side walls tapering from top of said back wall to a top of said front wall; and

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said door being pivotally coupled to said back wall, said door being for selectively opening and closing said roasting enclosure.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said door further comprises:

a top wall pivotally coupled to said back wall, said top wall having a width approximately equal to a width of said bottom wall;

a door front wall coupled to said top wall, said door front wall extending from said top wall to a top edge of said front wall when said door is in a closed position;

a pair of door side walls operationally coupled to said top wall, each one of said pair of door side walls being positioned adjacent an associated side of said top wall, said pair of door side walls tapering from said top wall to a bottom edge of said door front wall;

said door being shaped such that said roasting enclosure has a rectangular cross-section when said door is in a closed position.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said rotating ~~means assembly~~ further comprises:

a motor assembly operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure, said motor assembly being positioned adjacent to a side of said roasting enclosure; and

a shaft receiving assembly positioned adjacent to one of said pair of apertures.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising:

an electric motor operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure, said electric motor having a rotating shaft extending therefrom;

a drive member couplable to said rotating shaft, said drive member facilitating transfer of rotational energy from said rotating shaft to said shaft receiving assembly;

a switch member for selectively applying and interrupting electrical

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power to said electric motor whereby said electric motor may be turned on and off.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said shaft receiving assembly further comprises:

a rotating member for engaging said drive member such that rotation of said rotating shaft moves said drive member which in-turn rotates said rotating member;

a pair of collar guides, each one of said collar guides positioned adjacent to an associated one of said apertures, each one of said collar guides facilitating positioning of said shaft member such that said shaft member is rotatable by said rotating member;

a first pair of carrier bearing positioned adjacent to a first one of said apertures for facilitating support and rotation of said shaft member; and

a second pair of carrier bearing positioned adjacent to a second one of said apertures for facilitating support and rotation of said shaft member.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said ~~heating means~~ heat source further comprises:

at least one burner positioned in a lower portion of said roasting enclosure;

a gas supply line having a first and second end, said first end being operationally coupled to said burner, said second end extending through a wall of said roasting enclosure to an exterior environment, said second end being couplable to a gas supply.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said ~~heating means~~ heat source further comprises:

a thermostat operationally coupled to said gas supply line for controlling a temperature internal to said roasting enclosure;

at least one pilot safety control such that flow of gas through said gas supply line is interrupted if a pilot light is extinguished.

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10. (Currently Amended) The A flare-up resistant front loading roasting system of claim 1, further comprising

a roasting enclosure having a back and a pair of sides, said roasting enclosure having a door for facilitating access to an interior portion of said roasting enclosure, said roasting enclosure having a pair of apertures, each one of said apertures extending through an associated one of said sides;

a rotating assembly operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure;

a shaft member removeably engageable by said rotating assembly such that said rotating assembly is capable of rotating said shaft member, said shaft member having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end being engageable with said rotating assembly, said shaft member being positionable substantially within said roasting enclosure, said proximal end extending outwardly through a first one of said apertures, said distal end extending outwardly from a second one of said pair of apertures;

a heat source positioned within said roasting enclosure; and

a linear actuator assembly operationally coupled to a side of said roasting enclosure and said door, said linear actuator assembly facilitating opening and closing of including a first portion of said linear actuator assembly coupled to said door and a second portion of said linear actuator assembly coupled to said roasting enclosure, said linear actuator assembly being linearly extensible and retractable such that extension of said linear actuator assembly causes said door to open and retraction of said linear actuator assembly causes said door to close.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[[10]]] 1, further comprising a linear actuator assembly operationally coupled to a side of said roasting enclosure and said door, said linear actuator assembly facilitating opening and closing of said door:

wherein said linear actuator assembly further comprises:

a first coupling member operationally coupled to said door;

a second coupling member operationally coupled to a side of

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said roasting enclosure;

a jacking screw threaded through said first and second coupling members such that rotating said jacking screw in a first direction opens said door and rotating said jacking screw in a second direction closes said door;

a linear actuator drive motor operationally coupled to said jacking screw, said linear actuator drive motor converting electrical energy into rotational energy; and

an actuator control switch operationally coupled to said linear actuator drive motor for controlling rotating and direction of rotation of said linear actuator drive motor.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of wheels coupled to an exterior surface of said bottom wall, said plurality of wheels facilitating moving said system.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a poultry assembly couplable to said shaft member, said poultry assembly being adapted for engaging a plurality of fowl for facilitating rotisserie roasting.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said poultry assembly further comprises:

a plurality of spacing members couplable to said shaft member;

a plurality of secondary shaft members positionable between said spacing members; and

a plurality of fowl engagement members slideably engageable with said secondary shafts, each one of said fowl engagement members having at least one prong for insertion into the fowl for securing the fowl to said poultry assembly.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a drip pan removeably positionable within said roasting enclosure between

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said shaft member and said ~~heating means said drip pan being~~ heat source for collecting grease produced during roasting, said drip pan having a pair of walls defining a channel for receiving drippings falling on said wall of said drip pan, said channel extending from one of said sides of said sides of said roasting enclosure to another one of said sides of said roasting enclosure, .

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust port extending through a wall of said roasting enclosure, said exhaust port facilitating ventilation of an interior of said roasting enclosure.

17. (Original) A Flare-Up Resistant Front Loading Roasting System comprising:

a roasting enclosure having a back and a pair of sides, said roasting enclosure having a door for facilitating access to an interior portion of said roasting enclosure, said roasting enclosure having a pair of apertures, each one of said apertures extending through an associated one of said sides;

a rotating means operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure;

a shaft member removeably engageable by said rotating means, said shaft member having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end being engageable with said rotating means, said shaft member being positionable substantially within said roasting enclosure, said proximal end extending outwardly through a first one of said apertures, said distal end extending outwardly from a second one of said pair of apertures; a heating means positioned within said roasting enclosure;

wherein said roasting enclosure further comprises:

an interior wall and an exterior wall, said interior wall having a spaced parallel relationship with said exterior wall, said interior wall being operationally coupled to said exterior wall, said interior and exterior walls defining a wall interior space;

an insulating material positioned within and substantially filling said wall interior space, said insulating material inhibiting radiated heat transfer

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between an interior of said roasting enclosure and an external surface of said exterior wall;

a bottom wall providing a base for said roasting enclosure, said bottom wall having a back edge, a front edge, and a pair of side edges;

a back wall operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to said back edge of said bottom wall;

a front wall operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to said front edge of said bottom wall, said front wall having a height less than a height of said back wall;

a pair of side walls, each one of said pair of side walls being operationally coupled to said bottom wall adjacent to an associated one of said side edges of said bottom wall, each one of said side walls tapering from top of said back wall to a top of said front wall;

said door being pivotally coupled to said back wall, said door being for selectively opening and closing said roasting enclosure;

said back, front, and side walls and said door each having an interior wall and an exterior wall with insulating material positioned therebetween;

wherein said door further comprises:

a top wall pivotally coupled to said back wall, said top wall having a width approximately equal to a width of said bottom wall;

a door front wall coupled to said top wall, said door front wall extending from said top wall to a top edge of said front wall when said door is in a closed position;

a pair of door side walls operationally coupled to said top wall, each one of said pair of door side walls being positioned adjacent an associated side of said top wall, said pair of door side walls tapering from said top wall to a bottom edge of said door front wall;

said door being shaped such that said roasting enclosure has a rectangular cross-section when said door is in a closed position;

an electric motor operationally coupled to said roasting enclosure, said electric motor having a rotating shaft extending therefrom;



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a drive member couplable to said rotating shaft, said drive member facilitating transfer of rotational energy from said rotating shaft to said shaft receiving assembly;

a switch member for selectively applying and interrupting electrical power to said electric motor whereby said electric motor may be turned on and off;

wherein said shaft receiving assembly further comprises:

a rotating member for engaging said drive member such that rotation of said rotating shaft moves said drive member which in-turn rotates said rotating member;

a pair of collar guides, each one of said collar guides positioned adjacent to an associated one of said apertures, each one of said collar guides facilitating positioning of said shaft member such that said shaft member is rotatable by said rotating member;

a first pair of carrier bearing positioned adjacent to a first one of said apertures for facilitating support and rotation of said shaft member; and

a second pair of carrier bearing positioned adjacent to a second one of said apertures for facilitating support and rotation of said shaft member;

wherein said heating means further comprises:

at least one burner positioned in a lower portion of said roasting enclosure;

a gas supply line having a first and second end, said first end being operationally coupled to said burner, said second end extending through a wall of said roasting enclosure to an exterior environment, said second end being couplable to a gas supply;

a thermostat operationally coupled to said gas supply line for controlling a temperature internal to said roasting enclosure;

at least one pilot safety control such that flow of gas through said gas supply line is interrupted if a pilot light is extinguished;

a linear actuator assembly operationally coupled to a side of said roasting enclosure and said door, said linear actuator assembly facilitating

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opening and closing of said door;

wherein said linear actuator assembly further comprises:

a first coupling member operationally coupled to said door;

a second coupling member operationally coupled to a side of said roasting enclosure;

a jacking screw threaded through said first and second coupling members such that rotating said jacking screw in a first direction opens said door and rotating said jacking screw in a second direction closes said door;

a linear actuator drive motor operationally coupled to said jacking screw, said linear actuator drive motor converting electrical energy into rotational energy; and

an actuator control switch operationally coupled to said linear actuator drive motor for controlling rotating and direction of rotation of said linear actuator drive motor;

a plurality of wheels coupled to an exterior surface of said bottom wall, said plurality of wheels facilitating moving said system;

a poultry assembly couplable to said shaft member, said poultry assembly being adapted for engaging a plurality of fowl for facilitating rotisserie roasting;

wherein said poultry assembly further comprises:

a plurality of spacing members couplable to said shaft member;

a plurality of secondary shaft members positionable between said spacing members;

a plurality of fowl engagement members slideably engageable with said secondary shafts, each one of said fowl engagement members having at least one prong for insertion into the fowl for securing the fowl to said poultry assembly;

a drip pan removeably positionable within said roasting enclosure between said shaft member and said heating means, said drip pan being for collecting grease produced during roasting; and

an exhaust port extending through a wall of said roasting enclosure,

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said exhaust port facilitating ventilation of an interior of said roasting enclosure.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a heat shield positioned between said roasting enclosure and said linear actuator assembly for providing thermal protection to said linear actuator assembly during roasting.

19. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said roasting enclosure has an upper opening selectively closable by said door, said upper opening being defined by a perimeter edge, each of said apertures being located along said perimeter edge and being in communication with said upper opening such that said shaft member is movable through said upper opening and a portion of said shaft member is positionable in each of said apertures; and

a shaft receiving assembly positioned adjacent to each said aperture of said pair of apertures, each of said shaft receiving assemblies comprising:

a pair of carrier bearings being positioned adjacent to the respective said aperture such that said shaft member rests upon said pair of carrier bearings when the portion of said shaft member is positioned in the respective said aperture and said shaft member is rotatable on said carrier bearings, said shaft member being removable from contact with said carrier bearings when said shaft member is lifted out of said apertures and through said upper opening of said roasting enclosure.

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